Mississippi Star

Men's Issue

JUNE 1998
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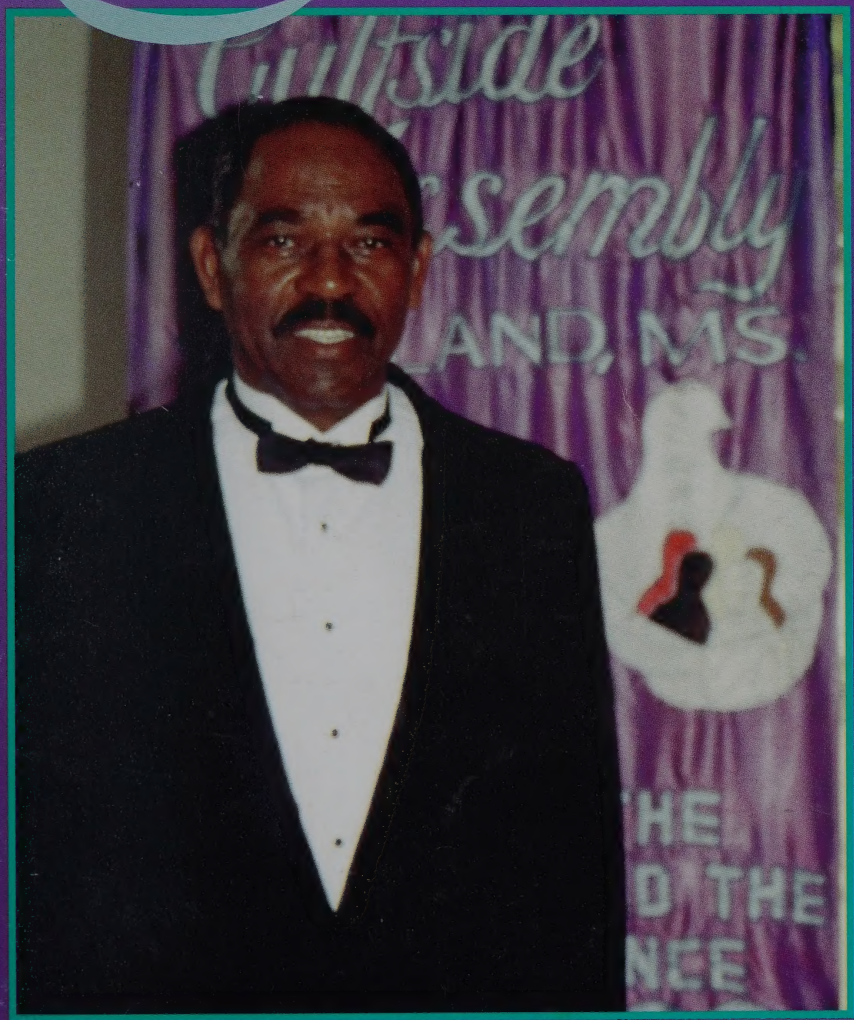

YMCA Family Preservation Program

Champions in All Fields

Busy and Resourceful Men

A Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties

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Mississippi Star

2nd Anniversary CELEBRATION

Thursday,
September 24, 1998
6:30 p.m.

Isle of Capri Casino
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MISSISSIPPI Star

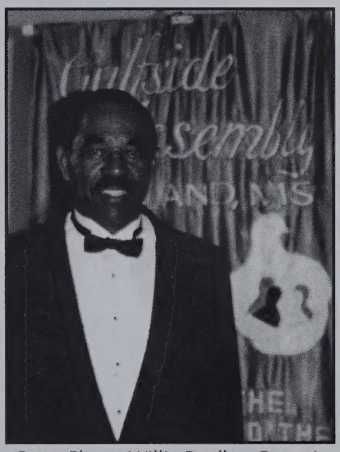
VOL.2 NO. 10

CONTENTS

JUNE 1998

DEPARTMENTS

5 Publisher's Page
7 Letters
8 Books
10 Thoughts
28 Briefs
31 Guest Word
34 Calendar

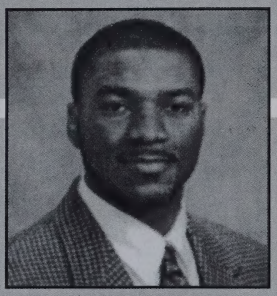


Cover Photo: Willie Bradley, Executive Director of Gulfside Assembly's A Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties 75th Anniversary Extravaganza

FEATURES

13 YMCA Family Preservation Program
15 Champions in All Fields
18 Busy and Resourceful Men
22 A Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties

We Put People First On And Off The Field

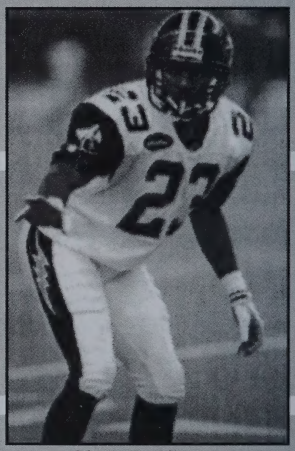


Shannon Garrett
Loan Officer
The People's Bank

Six months out of the year Shannon Garrett is a loan officer at our Gulfport Branch. The other six months he is a defensive back for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

At the Peoples Bank, we have been putting people first for 100 years. In Shannon's case that means holding his job for him while he plays football in Canada each year.

The next time you're in our Gulfport Branch, be sure to say hi to Shannon and wish him luck in the upcoming season!



Shannon Garrett
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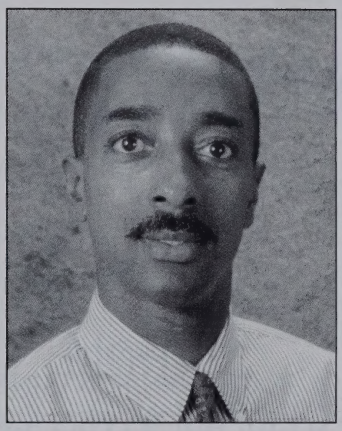
PUBLISHER'S PAGE



Maurice Singleton

I have this action memory of my grandfather, in his late seventies at the time, walking slowly and achingly through the dining room of his home, carrying a piece of french bread in his hand, wincing every careful and calculating step of the way. He suffered from arthritis and I am sure old age. But what I remember most clearly about this picture is the question he asked after he finally took his seat at the dining table: "Oh, you know whose sick?"

Of course, as a young child I had no idea of who he could possibly be talking about. So I answered, "no."

His comeback: "The broomstick!" He caught me off guard. It was a joke. More than a joke it was his way of telling my cousin and I not to feel sorry for him because he was okay despite the fact that he was old, sickly and obviously suffering a great deal of pain.

My grandfather was a resourceful man. He worked hard most of his life providing for his wife and nine children. He made the most of his limited opportunity. And he had an incredible sense of humor. In other words, his attitudes about life, work and family were very healthy. He simply enjoyed life. He was a very resourceful man.

This issue is about the resourcefulness of men. It is about how some men have taken the proverbial "hand they've been dealt" and have made the most of it, providing livings for their families and examples of good citizenship in their communities. I say communities because what these and many men like them do and how they decide to live their lives, not only affects their families but impacts - indirectly - many of the people who come in contact with them, particularly impressionable young people who subconsciously are seeking model characteristics which will help to define them.

Some of the men profiled on the following pages run businesses or work long hours, in some cases working two jobs or running two businesses. Despite obstacles, these men don't make excuses for their situations, instead they "Just do it!" - as the Nike footwear company promotional theme reads; it being whatever is necessary for them to succeed and their families to thrive.

I understand that there are many men like the ones featured on the following

MISSISSIPPI Star

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BUCHANAN/FONTAINE
Marketing.Communications.Design

Advertising
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Business Manager
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pages. In fact, most of the men I know work hard. Many have second jobs - officiating basketball, softball and baseball games, mowing lawns, building and renovating houses among other things. Some may live next door to you; some may go to the same church you attend. Who they are and what they do is important to our families and communities because these men are examples to somebody.

Examples of hard work and resourceful men show young people that hard work is normal and that working hard is okay. Chances are if a young man has been fortunate to observe these hard-working men for any length of time, he will at least be inclined to consider the values and work ethics of some of these men. And the more he sees, the more he will believe in the importance of hard work.

The next time a young person tells you that work is too hard or that something is too difficult to achieve, be resourceful. Encourage him/her. Remind them of the theme of the logo of the athletic shoes they're probably wearing: *Just do it!* MS

Did you miss out on any prior issues of *Mississippi Star*, and you want to keep up with what's going on in South Mississippi? Drop us a line indicating the name and address of the person(s) to whom you would like us to mail a copy of *Mississippi Star*. *Please include a check or money order totaling $3.00 for each copy.*

LETTERS

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Singleton,

I would like to give a special word of appreciation to you for publishing the article about me, "A Hobby Blossoms into a Business." You will never know what the article meant to me and my son. Kelvin, my son, was very impressed, and it has motivated him to become an entrepreneur.

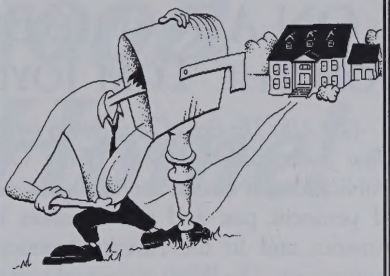
I wish I could tell you what is in my heart. Since there are not enough words in the English language to fully express it, I will just say I appreciate it.

Thanks,
Ollie Oliver

We want to hear from you!

Write to us to give us your input on the issues we discuss here in The Mississippi Star. Letters should be 100 words or less. Send them to:

Mississippi Star
P.O. Box 2651,
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.



MOVING? RECENTLY MOVED? ABOUT TO MOVE?

Please Drop Us A Line With Your New Address So You Can Be Sure To Receive Your Mississippi Star!

Letters to the Publisher

should be 100 words or less.
Star Calendar: Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact. Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month.
Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Mail submissions to

Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

Books

ON AIR: The Best of Tavis Smiley on the Tom Joyner Morning Show

ON AIR: The Best of Tavis Smiley on the Tom Joyner Morning Show (Pines One Publications) is a collection of discussions of pertinent past and present issues in America and in the African American community. The Biloxi native and host of BET Tonight with Tavis Smiley takes a critical look at a number of social and political issues and comes straight and clear with what's right and wrong with logic-based suggestions and recommendations to right some of the wrongs.

ON AIR enthusiastically and energetically captures readers, inspiring and enlightening us on issues we should all be talking about and prepared to discuss intelligently with our friends and in the workplace where these topics have a tendency of surfacing.

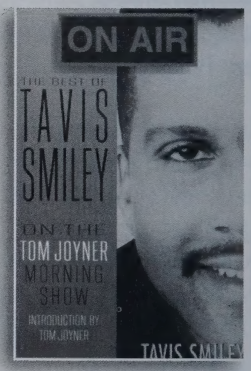
Smiley's confidence is engaging as he thoroughly dissects issues in the five sections of *ON AIR* - Part One: Reflections, Part Two: Advocacy, Part Three: Public Policy, Part Four: Race & Racism, and Part Five: And Another thing...

Here are a few examples of Tavis' positions on issues:

...So many of today's athletes and entertainers are afraid to take a stand on matters of social and political consequence. Jackie Robinson was not one of those persons. He was very involved in the Civil Rights Movement... We have to do a better job in our community of letting folks know who Jackie Roosevelt Robinson was and what he did...

...this Ebonics debate... Some people think it's a good idea, others think it's a bad idea... .If a kid walks into a classroom and starts splitting verbs... is speaking improper English.... Correct the kid in a sensitive and straightforward way and let's move on. That's what worked for us and I don't know why it won't work for kids today....

...Nike, in the truest sense of capitalism, has crushed the competition in their ads and artwork...Have you seen the latest Michael Jordan commercial, "That's why I succeed"? That commercial is all that and a bag of onion potato chips....I've got a quick suggestion for Mr. Knight and his creative crew at Nike. The city of Detroit is bouncing back economically... Detroit's Mayor Dennis Archer who is leading the way to bring business back into the Motor City by having a significant part of the city declared a federal, state and local enterprise zone. Which basically means that if big business sets up shop within the boundaries of the enterprise zone, they get rewarded with federal, state and local tax credits based on the folk that they hire....Tax credits, folks who need jobs, a city making a comeback. A bold move by Nike could help turn a whole city around. No, it's not as cheap as building a factory in Indonesia, but folks in Indonesia, excuse my English, ain't wearing $150 and $185 shoes either...



ON AIR is educational and timely. If you're at all confused by the current political climate, *ON AIR* walks you through the maze of what's actual path and what's politics.

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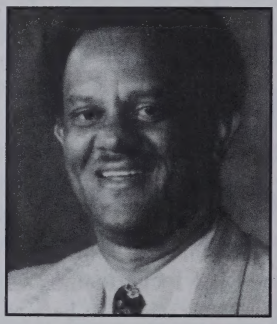
Celebrating 20 Years of Service

Who are your children's heroes?

There is no great wisdom in the statement, "We are our children's primary teachers." However, have we ever thought about the awesome responsibility that is evoked by that phrase? It is our duty and God's challenge to take that gift; a life we created, to nurture, provide shelter for



E. J. Roberts

and develop a wholesome environment for that child to grow and ultimately become a vibrant part of society.

Whenever we become parents, the task of rearing our offspring begins and remains our responsibility until our death. Children don't stop learning when they are adults. For most, it's the realization of not having understood the depth of a parent's love for their children.

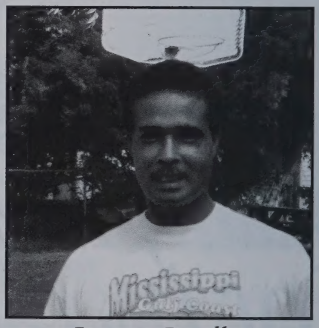
The discussion of where are we going as a society often surfaces. The response is simply: where do we challenge our kids to be. My parents expected more from me because I had been entrusted and blessed with more than they received. However, don't allow yourself to be caught in the web of materialism. What our children truly want is to see a smile on our face when they have excelled in school or sports. To be there to pick them up after a fall from a bicycle. To assure them the sun does shine after the rain. To hug them just because... What our children really need is us.

When we revolve our lives around our children, we may never have to wonder who their heroes really are.

E.J. Roberts is a State Farm Insurance Agent in Gulfport, MS.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

How do we help our young men to become responsible and productive citizens?



Lonnie Bradley

For young males to be responsible and productive in today's society, the key is to listen to your parents. They are not going to tell you something that is intentionally wrong. They have experienced life much longer; and the things our youth are trying to do, most parents have already done.

Lonnie Bradley is employed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi.

Early detection

and treatment can help save your life.

An estimated 165,000
new cases of
PROSTATE CANCER
have occurred among men
in the U.S. this year alone.
Today, one out of ten men
will develop prostate cancer
by age 85.

Who is at risk?

Incidence increases with age. Over 80% of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over age 65. Rates are 40% higher for black men than white men.

What do I look for?

Prostate cancer warnings include:

- Weak or interrupted urine flow
- Inability to urinate
- Difficulty starting or stopping the urine flow
- The need to urinate frequently, especially at night
- Blood in the urine
- Painful or burning urination
- Continuing pain in lower back, pelvis or upper thighs

What should I do?

Early detection is extremely critical. After 40, a man should have a digital rectal examination with his regular annual physical checkup and an annual prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test at 50 and older. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms described here, contact your physician immediately.

For more information or a physician referral call:

865-DOCS (3627)

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MHG

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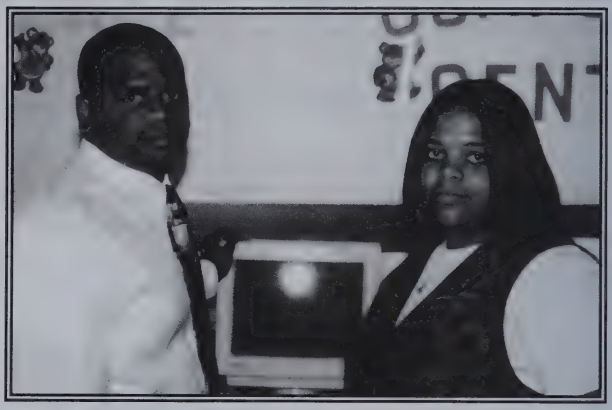
AT GULFPORT

FAMILY · PRESERVATION



Jacques Singleton and Shante' Stutts who says the program addresses the needs of the residents.

The Lawrence C. Jones Housing Complex in North Gulfport and the Clark Housing Complex in Moss Point are the host sites for The Family Preservation Program, a YMCA-implemented program designed to teach residents self-sufficiency.

"We are basically here to teach the community skills that can help them become more self-sufficient," explained Jacques Singleton, coordinator for the Family Preservation Program. "We offer parenting skills classes to teach parents how to communicate more effectively with their children. And we also offer after-school programs that include tutoring and recreation for the children."

At the Lawrence C. Jones Housing Complex parents come in once a week for an hour and are provided with feedback from counselors on how to deal with their teenagers. Singleton said that parents are a little resistant at first, but once they realize that the program is not about placing blame, but seriously committed to making parents more effective, "parents come around." Initially, only one parent showed up, but in the past two months, participation has grown to involve seven parents.

"We try to get to the core of the problem," said Singleton. "The first class deals specifically with identifying the needs of the parents. Once we have resolved one issue we move to other areas such as self-esteem, becoming more effective role models, discipline, conflict resolution and anger management."

"We also offer medical and nutrition classes," explained Shante' Stutts, a full time counselor in the program. "Basically we teach proper diet and eating habits. And if they are having any questions with health issues such as cancer or certain types of surgery, we have a counselor who addresses those issues. Many of the people out here are taking care of elderly relatives."

GED tutoring and computer skills classes are two of the classes available to adults. Additionally, there is an employment skills training class in which coun-

selors help with resumes, and proper job application and interviewing skills.

Singleton said that while participation in the adult program has been somewhat slow, participation in youth activities has been very good. "We have a lot of participation from the children," he explained. "We have

Jacques Singleton, coordinator for Family Preservation Program discusses activities and goals for the program.

approximately 60 children enrolled in North Gulfport and another 40 in Moss Point.

"I think with the goals we have - providing something for the children after school, providing alternatives - we are doing a good job of addressing these issues.

"When we got here we had a lot of problems keeping the kids in a controlled environment after a full day of school. Now they are beginning to cooperate more. At first the children responded this way because their parents were forcing them to come. Now, the ones who come consistently enjoy coming and they look forward to coming everyday.

Continued on Page 29

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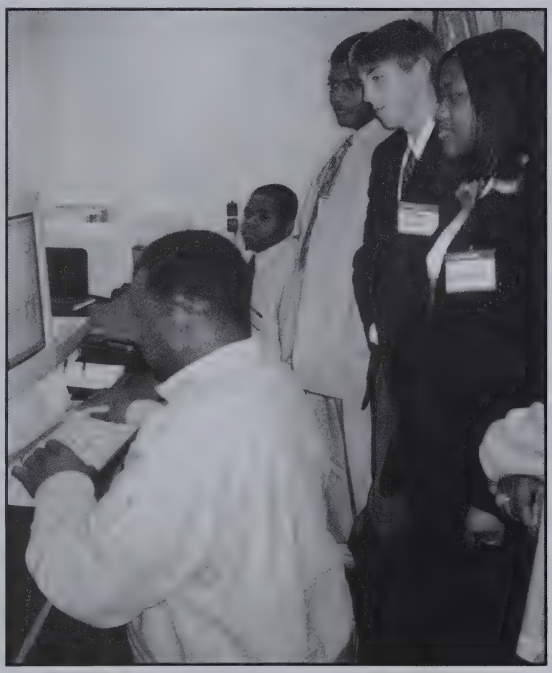
Champions in All Fields

Students in the Marketing II classes at Moss Point High School feel that their school and peers are "Champions in All Fields." Mark Faircloth, vice president and marketing director at Hancock Bank, and Allen Jenkins of PowerLines Advertising and Design, Inc. feel the same way.

When marketing teacher Christy Geissinger asked Faircloth if her classes could tour Hancock's marketing department, the response was far greater than she expected. Hancock and PowerLines volunteered to team up to give the students a first-hand marketing experience and to cover the costs of an advertising campaign.

Faircloth and Jenkins visited the classes several times and took the students through the step-by-step process of building an advertising campaign. The students chose to develop an ad campaign to help improve the high school's image.

"The students felt that many people don't recognize what an excellent school Moss Point High is," said Jeanie Lunsford, the district's communication director. "They talked about the innovative programs and cutting edge technology they experience daily, and said they felt frustrated that



Allen Jenkins of PowerLines (left) helps Moss Point High students Marcus Washington, L.C. Price, Clif Watts and Lauren Miller design a billboard. The students in three of Christy Geissinger's Marketing II classes worked with the staff from Hancock Bank and PowerLines Advertising to develop an ad campaign for the school. The two businesses donated both staff time and production costs to provide the students with a "real-life" marketing experience.health issues such as cancer or certain types of surgery, we have a counselor who addresses those issues. Many of the people out here are taking care of elderly relatives."

some people only see the school's athletic excellence."

The marketing classes worked with the representatives from Hancock Bank and PowerLines to create and administer a survey to determine what students believed were the strengths and weaknesses of Moss Point High School.

Then, the marketing students created a positioning statement for their proposed campaign. Finally, students from all three marketing classes visited Hancock Bank's Marketing Department where they turned their ideas into reality.

"I am extremely proud of the work my students have put into this campaign," said Geissinger. "They have truly applied their marketing skills and have really come up with some good ideas."

The students' campaign is built around the slogan "Champions in All Fields." Moss Point High School is a recognized leader in athletics, but the students wanted the community to understand that there is much more to their school.

"For example, other school districts come from throughout the region to learn about our technology programs," said Leana Bargado, a senior and second-year marketing student. "The University of Southern Mississippi even comes to borrow one of our labs, because we have equipment and technology that exceed theirs."

According to Geissinger the school has outstanding classroom experiences, a supportive staff and enthusiastic students.

"Our students provide peer tutoring and mentoring services to other children; we help out with environmental projects, and with many worthy causes."

One of the unique features the surveys showed was the school's focus on volunteerism. "Our students provide peer tutoring and mentoring services to other children; we help out with environmental projects, and with many worthy causes," said Leana.

And according to Leana, as good as the school is already, it is doing some innovative things that will make it even better in the future. She sees the district's five-year strategic plan already bearing fruit.

"I am a witness to the actual reinventing of Moss Point Schools," said Leana.

"Although I am very satisfied with the education that I have received, I can't help but feel a little unfortunate not to be able to be here for all of the advancements the students in the upcoming years will experience."

She'll face plenty of interesting choices in life.
For now, she'll just nap between feedings.

©1998 Mississippi Power Company

She doesn't have a care in the world. Somehow she knows she is safe and sound. Appreciated and cared for. As she grows older she'll have choices. Choices that will fill her life with excitement, opportunity, new friends and someday maybe a family of her own. As her life changes we'll be working hard to make sure that all the wonderful moments in her life are seldom interrupted.

MISSISSIPPI POWER
A SOUTHERN COMPANY

Busy and Res

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Working second jobs or "moonlighting" has been a way of life for many men in Mississippi where the opportunity to earn a living wage from a single job was nonexistent for many eligible workers until recent years. Mowing yards, bartending, officiating sports competitions, cleaning office buildings and several other part-time "hustles" served as earnings vehicles to bring families up to more comfortable living standards. For some families the dual incomes from one individual was a necessity; for others the second income provided money for families to pay for college tuition, to take vacations, to buy a new car or to simply purchase items that were more of a luxury than a need.

Russell Fairconnetue

Russell Fairconnetue

"My job has made it very possible for me to get into these other things that I do," explained Russell Fairconnetue, a lab technician at the Dupont Delisle Plant who works as a deejay and photographer away from the job. "I have got quite a bit of money invested in equipment (professional stereo equipment). My overtime (earnings) has made it possible for me to get this equipment so that I can do these things that I really enjoy doing.

"I do both of them because I love doing both of them," Fairconnetue discussed his enjoyment of music and photography. He works 48 hours one week and 36 hours during the following week in his lab technician position. However, he says that he usually works an additional twelve to 36 overtime hours.

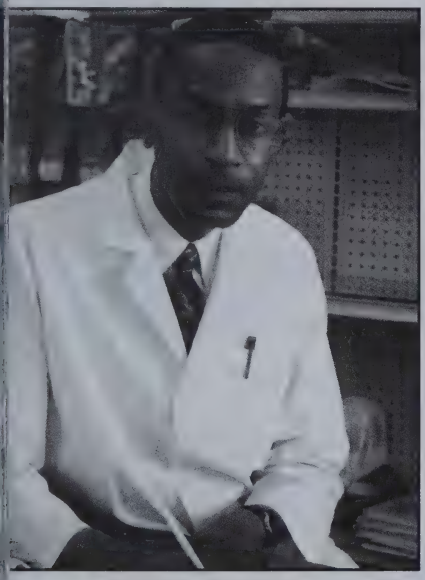
"The energy to do the overtime comes from taking care of the home," explained the former athlete who is now 49 years of age. "Now that I've gotten older, I don't practice softball anymore and I don't play basketball anymore. The energy basically comes from the simple fact that I like to do these things. I have always enjoyed my music and I like to take pictures.

"I've been a collector of music most of my life, from the time I was in school

URCEFUL MEN

hen there was a party, the first thing ey would say was, 'Let's get Russell's usic.' I've always been a collector of usic. I just liked it.

"I've got the proper equipment now



Clarence Dubose

d I've got the music," he says as he ints out three cabinets of music discs. 's very easy now. The hardest part is rrying the equipment. Once you've ne it for years, it's not even a problem ting up.

"I could do two or three (deejay) gagements at the same time," rconnetue explained. "I have the equipment capabilities to do that. Norman Smith (business partner) and I have purchased state of the art equipment with covered trailers and the works. I can do anything in the Bay (Bay St. Louis) by myself because I have that much equipment."

As far as photography, Fairconnetue says that professionally he has primarily worked weddings. He said that he was skeptical about doing the wedding pictures for the friend of his daughter, but in the end, his daughter's friend was pleased with his work.

"Everytime I do something, I feel pressure," Fairconnetue explained. "But I really haven't had any complaints."

Clarence Dubose

Another man who enjoys photography and stays quite busy with different work responsibility is Clarence Dubose who is the owner of three businesses - Medi-Mart Pharmacy, We Care Hospice and Candi Video, all based in Moss Point.

"Actually, the first one came out of my training," explained Dubose who is a graduate of the University of Mississippi College of Pharmacy. "I never had a desire to be employed by any one else. I always wanted to have my own pharmacy.

"The second grew out of interest I had in a hobby. I had been a still photogra-

pher for a long while, and I had an interest in video production work," explained Dubose. "And the hospice is an extension of the pharmacy practice. It's an additional area in health care that pharmacists had not traditionally engaged in. I had to create another business entity to create the business.

"Patient care drives both the pharmacy and hospice," Dubose explained. "We have two groups of patients: those exclusively in the pharmacy and those in hospice. Hospice is more time intensive, because those patients are chronically ill. They require more attention than those in and out of the pharmacy."

Dubose said that he puts more time into pharmacy and hospice than he does video production. For him, video production is more of a hobby.

"The video production business is more like my recreation," he explained. "We do Moss Point High football games for the entire season. We also do some corporate stuff from time to time, things like corporate training videos and advertising."

Candi Video also has responsibility for videotaping progress on projects for a Hawaiian company, Hawaii Tug and Boat that has equipment under construction at Halter Marine in Jackson County. Footage of ceremonial events are also recorded by Candi Video and raw footage is shipped to the company's office in Hawaii.

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"When they call, we just go and do it," said Dubose.

"I think that there are number of opportunities for entrepreneurship," explained Dubose. "Some times people focus on the big picture, focusing on big staffs. Sometimes they overlook the more basic opportunities.

"Being small allows me to do a variety of things. I can do it rather quickly. When we decided to do the hospice, we didn't have to go through a board. We didn't have to go through a committee. We simply made an assessment of need. We got the business up and running in a fraction of the time it would have taken a larger company.

"Among black people, there is a resource that's available that most of us don't use," Dubose explained. "That's networking; particularly for someone just starting a business."

"Because I am small, and I am independent, I can make an assessment and then do it. We do child and adult immunizations. Even if my chain competitors wanted to do something of that sort, by the time they win approval from a corporate level, we are already up and running.

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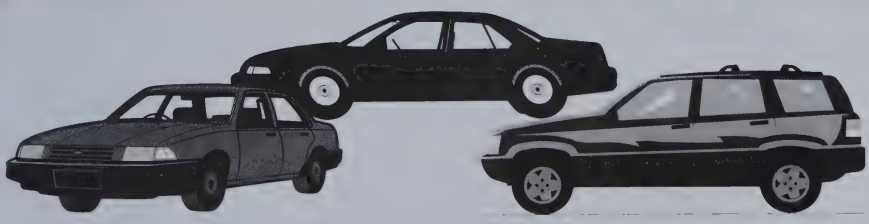

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What advice does Dubose have for someone interested in starting a business?

"Basically, for those who are starting a business, they need to have a working knowledge of the area they are going into. They need to have an understanding of what the need for their product or service is going to be. There needs to be assessment of fact, not on feeling. Oftentimes people will come to me with what they call a great idea for a business. I question them about who their competitors are and what kind of pricing they are going to use. Oftentimes, they don't have a clear understanding of where they 're going to buy the product and how they are going to price it. Intuition has its place, but it should not be primary as to whether or not you are going to pursue a business venture.

"You should be able to project for a period of time what it's going to take to keep the business running for a given period of time.

"Among black people, there is a resource that's available that most of us don't use," Dubose explained. "That's networking; particularly for someone just starting a business. They should seek out someone who has experience in a similar business. Most black business persons are willing to share information very readily. Too often those who are seeking to enter business fail to avail themselves of that wealth of information. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. You take what's there and build on it."

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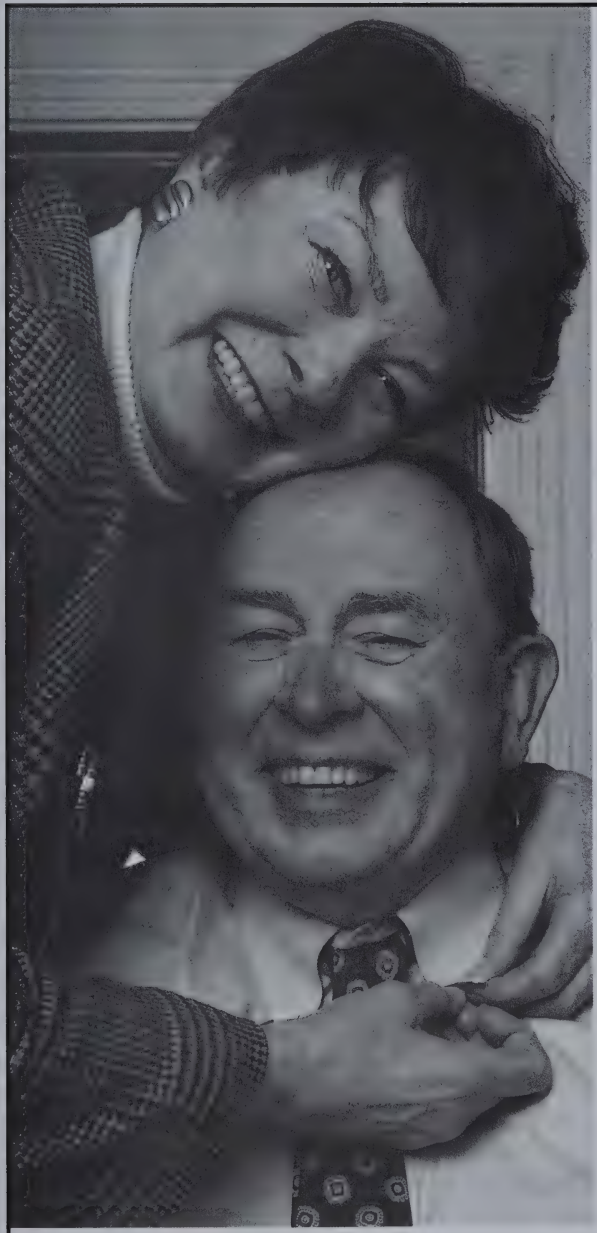

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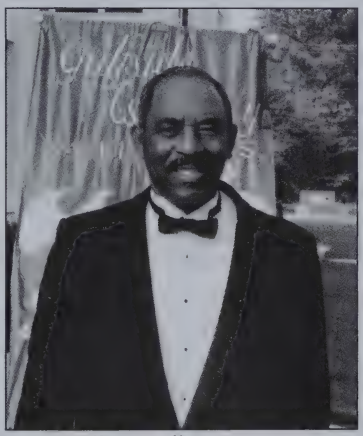
One Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

On Friday evening, June 26, 1998 the Orange Grove Community Center in Gulfport will be the site of the Gulfside Assembly 75th Anniversary Extravaganza "One Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties." This event will pay tribute to Gulfside Assembly's seventeen executive directors.

Funds raised from "One Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties" will go toward the $2 million Capital Fund Drive which will enable the construction of a new Multi-Cultural Family Life Center on unused portions of the 60-acre Gulfside Assembly grounds.



Willie Bradley, Executive Director of One Thousand Men in Black Bow Ties.

Commemorative plaques will be presented to the nine living executive directors and family members of the eight deceased members. The executive directors will also be remembered on a wall of merit at Gulfside Assembly.

"I was so overjoyed by the enthusiasm of the men," said Marian T. Martin, executive director of Gulfside Assembly. "Some people talk the talk, but the men are doing it. I will always remember when Mr. Willie Bradely first presented the idea. We said that it sounded so good. His enthusiasm was very obvious. It was contagious. And he said this could be an annual event."

Mrs. Martin said it was the energy and courage of men that started Gulfside Assembly seventy-five years ago and because men have taken the initiative at this point makes this program very special.

"In 1923, Bishop Robert E. Jones and fourteen black men saw that something should be done to help our people," explained Martin. "They founded Gulfside Assembly and established a school that would prepare young men for life. The first mission of the school was to educate poor boys. In fact, it was called The Poor Boys School.

"The idea was to provide training, education and recreation for African

Americans. It (Gulfside Assembly) was real strong then. It's founding was compelled to combat the racism of the time that was prevalent in the church and in society. Segregation was legal then."

In addition to developing young men by allowing them to work and educating them in the classroom, Gulfside Assembly also provided training for pastors. Professors from the seminary would come to provide training primarily during the summer months. It was also a place where black entertainers performed. Roland Hayes a nationally-known tenor performed there. According to Martin, Gulfside has a very rich musical history.

"Gulfside Assembly provided nurturing," said Martin. "It made black children believe they could be anything they wanted to be. It provided the kind of self-esteem that nurtured and molded young people to make them want to become responsible and caring adults."

The nine living executive directors who will be recognized on June 26, 1998, are as follows: Dr. James Peters of Nashville, TN; Wendell P. Taylor of Jackson, MS; Dennis Fletcher of Teaneck, NJ; Warren Booker of Mobile, AL; Nora Kellogg of Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Theo Triplett of Ohio; Ronetta Roberts of Waveland, MS; Mae Frances Spencer of Atlanta, GA; and Marian T. Martin of Waveland, MS.

Mrs. Martin said that more than 5000 people are attracted to Gulfside each year for conferences, camps, visits or Elder Hostel programs. She said that people truly enjoy the natural beauty of the huge oak-covered grounds looking out over the Gulf of Mexico.

"Gulfside Assembly is the only institution of its kind in the country," said Mrs. Martin. "It's not just a place; it's truly an experience."

Gulfside Assembly is a non-profit organization related to the United Methodist Church that serves people and community. It is located on sixty acres on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Waveland, Mississippi. It houses a conference center that is currently utilized by local schools, universities, government and others. For more information write to: Gulfside Assembly, 950 South Beach Blvd., P.O. Box 27, Waveland, MS 39576-3820, or phone/fax: 228-467-4909.

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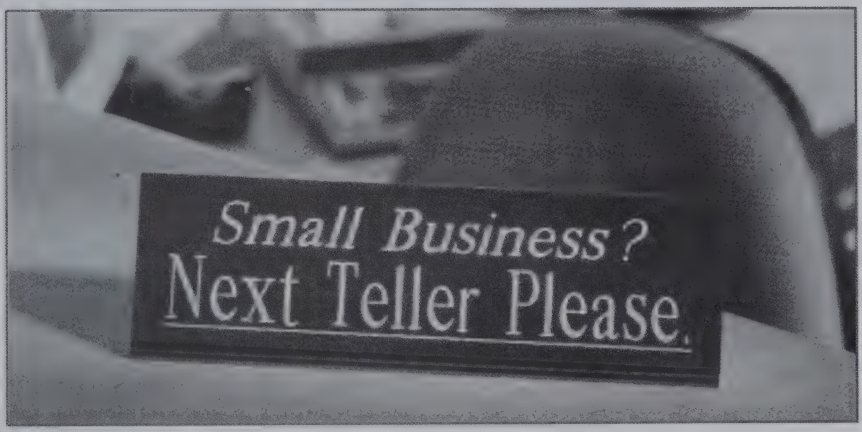

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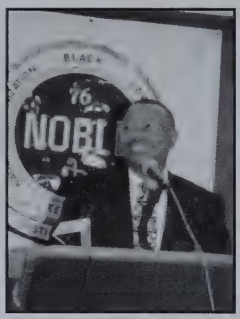
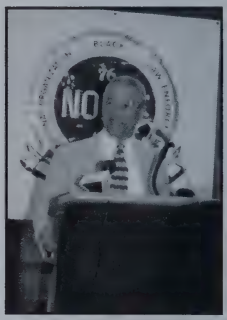
BRIEFS

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Annual Conference to be held on Coast in 2000

Robin Alfred Midcalf



Tommy Moffett



George T. Watson

Harrison County District Four Supervisor Robin Alfred Midcalf, Esq., Biloxi Police Chief Tommy Moffett and Harrison County Tourism Commissioner George T. Watson tell media representatives of the strategies that led to the success of attracting the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) annual conference to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in July of 2000. It is estimated that more than 2000 delegates from across the country and their families will be visiting the Gulf Coast for the conference.

"The conferences have traditionally been held in large cities," said Moffett. "We can't promise NOBLE members that this will be the largest place they've visited, but we can assure them they will have the best time they've ever had."

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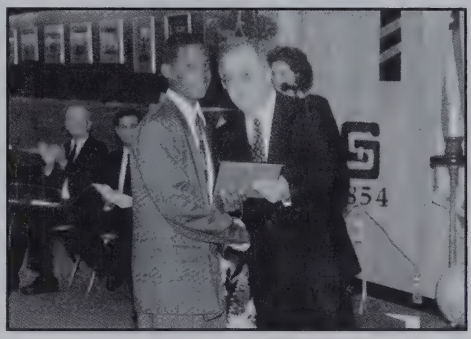
BRIEFS

Brian Butler, the son of Mrs. Ezell Butler of Bay St. Louis receives the American Legion Award from St. Stanislaus principal, Brother Ronald Talbot, SC. The presentation was made during the St. Stanislaus Prep Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony on May 28.



Family... *Continued from page 13*

"We are doing outdoor recreational activities such as kick ball and we're playing baseball and volleyball."

Singleton has plans to expand the program and to expose students to role models from various walks of life.

"We are looking forward to starting a Black Achievers Program which will involve bringing in African American speakers to talk about various issues. We hope to bring in people who are doing positive things, like from the military or the police department. We basically try to expose the children to African American leaders and people who are doing positive things."

In addition to Singleton and Stutts, counselors Renee Johnson, Robin Parham and Sonya McDonald work with adults and youth at the programs two sites.

Jacques Singleton is a native of Biloxi, a graduate of USM and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Social Work program at USM Gulf Park. The Family Preservation Program is one of three current ongoing programs at the South Mississippi YMCA. The others are the Adolescent Offenders Program which counsels youths involved in the court system; and Families First in Jackson County goes into the school system and provides group counseling to young people in the areas of anger management, conflict resolution and a variety of other issues.

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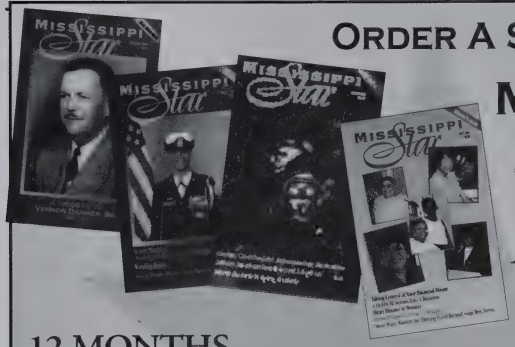

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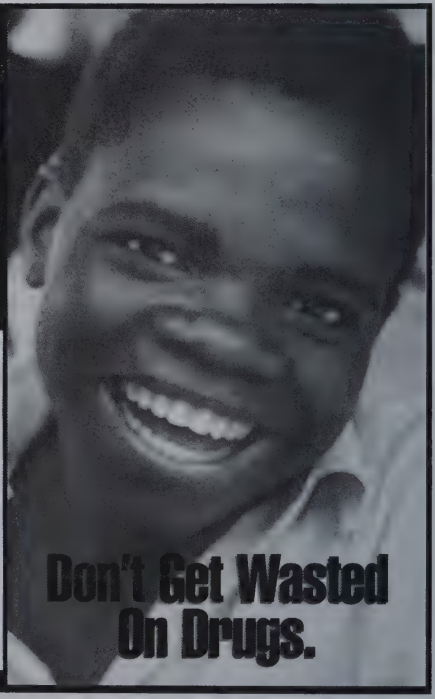

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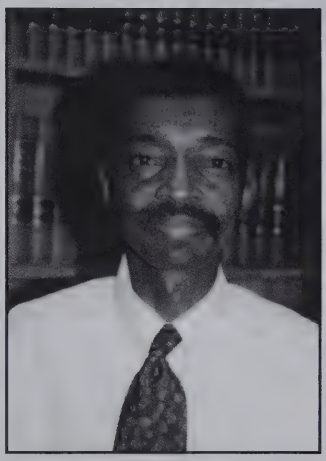

by Joseph P. Hudson, Esq.

Most individuals work hard during life and amass an estate of some value. The estate may include real estate, cash, other personal property such as vehicles, equipment, jewelry, furniture and furnishings. Insurance proceeds where the estate is the beneficiary, stocks, bonds and other assets may be involved in the estate.

Death is a road each individual will travel and the question of who inherits that individual's property must be answered. There are two basic choices:

1. An individual eighteen years of age and above, in his sound mind and not under undue influence can make a valid Last Will and Testament and pass his property to designated beneficiaries and devisees. With certain limited exceptions granting a spouse a share of an estate there is no obligation to include anyone as a recipient in your will.
2. If an individual does not make a will then the laws of the state make a determination as to which relative(s) will inherit your property.

While death and who gets what property upon death is not a pleasant subject let me urge the readers to seriously give some thought to the passage of property they have acquired. All too often because of lack of planning, accumulated family wealth is lost because of the failure to make needed decisions. For example the following are "horror stories" which occur all too frequently:

A. A person dies without a will and has no spouse or children but himself; was one of ten brothers and sisters, a number of whom are now deceased. Under Mississippi law those living siblings and the children of deceased siblings would be the heirs. You can only imagine the numbers of individuals this potentially can involve and the legal work

needed to make contact with numerous individuals to get the estate settled.

B. One tragedy with Black families is the loss of family land—often to tax sales for unpaid real estate taxes or to sales through legal proceedings when savvy and knowledgeable land speculators acquire the land. How many families have owned sizeable or valuable tracts of real estate and because of hard times and the need to work have relocated to northern and western cities, failing to pay taxes and losing ownership of family property.

C. A related type tragedy with families is that individuals in the family will not "be practical" about family property. In theory it sounds good to keep a home place where any family member can come and use the land or the family homestead and live on the land. This ignores real issues such as who will manage the property, who will pay the taxes and insurance, whether the timber can be cut from the land, does the homestead need repair and renovation, can a family member have an acre to place a trailer on the land or build a home and mortgage that piece of land to finance the building. This ignores real issues of family members having judgements for debt and federal tax liens and other liens filed against them and those liens attaching to his interest in the land. All of these are practical everyday problems of multiple ownership which families need to address.

Among some general suggestions that families may want to consider are the following:

1. Let one or several family members buy out the interest of other family members.
2. If a family has a tract of real estate of some size it may want to partition or physically divide the property giving each heir his specific part.
3. The family may want to place the ownership of real estate into a corporation's name to facilitate business management with respect to its property and keep its title from being vested in individuals living from Maine to California and in these times across the world.

Finally, most individuals want to pass on the bulk of their assets to family members and friends after their death and that is certainly commendable. Most of us have been associated with churches and other public, civic, charitable and religious institutions and causes during our lives. A bequest - small or more substantial - is a means of fostering the continued good work and you may want to consider such an investment in the future.

Joseph P. Hudson, Esq. has a private law practice in Gulfport, MS.

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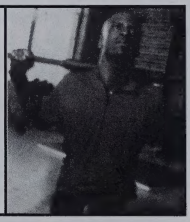

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Father's Day Picnic
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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Iota Upsilon Chapter
U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, MS
1:30 p.m.
Contact: Ormando Whitlock 870-3455

1000 Men in Black Bow Ties
June 26
Gulfside Assembly Fundraiser
Orange Grove Community Center
Gulfport, MS

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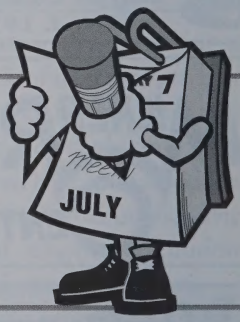

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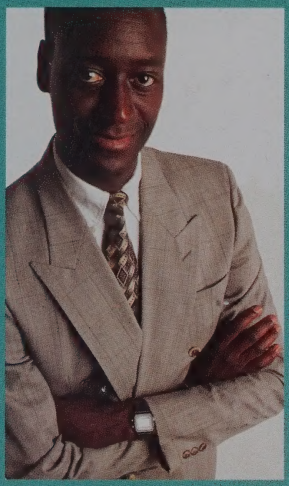

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